GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:32
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
FREE EDUCATION
RASA SINGH RAWAT;SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impart free education to the children in the age group of 6 to 14 years;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure proposed to be made thereon during the Ninth Five Year Plan:

(c) the provisions made by the Government for providing free and compulsory primary education and the percentage of children targeted to be imparted education under this scheme during the said period;

(d) whether the programme is running as per the target; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.32 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.7.2000 ASKED BY SHRISURESH CHANDEL AND PROF. RASA SINGHRAWAT REGARDING FREE EDUCATION

(a) : Yes, Sir. Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years is a Constitutional directive. The Hon`ble SupremeCourt has already declared it to be a Fundamental Right. The National Policy of Education also reiterates it.

(b) & (c) : The IX Plan allocation for elementary education inthe Central Plan was Rs.11,842 crores. Besides this, provision of Rs.4526.75 crores was made for the Mid Day Meal scheme. The allocation for year 2000-2001 has been fixedat Rs.3608.75 crores. In 1998-99, 11.09 crore children were enrolled in primary classes and 4.03 crore were enrolled in Upper Primary classes. The Ninth Plan did not have a target in terms of percentage of children to be imparted education.

(d) : The Programme of Action of the National Policyon Education 1992 envisaged the target of elementary education for all children in the age group 6-14 years by the end of the century. This has not been achieved so far. However, all recent surveys indicate improvement in attendance of children and that 70% of the 6-14 age children are attending school.

(e) : Efforts to achieve universal elementary education are being made under existing schemes like the Operation Blackboard, the Non Formal education scheme, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, the scheme of strengthening Teacher Education, Mahila Samakhya, LokJumbish, Shiksha Karmi, and the District Primary Education Programme. The proposed Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is likely to be operational in the current financial year, is a programme for universalisation of elementary education.